

Test -- Interest Groups

1. When the Illinois Farm Bureau offers its members discount prices and the chance to purchase low-cost insurance, it is providing _____ incentives.
 - a. solidary
 - b. material
 - c. purposive
 - d. both solidary and purposive
 - e. ideological
2. Purposive incentives involve
 - a. employment opportunities in government agencies.
 - b. the appeal of a stated goal.
 - c. a sense of pleasure, status or companionship.
 - d. money, or things and services readily valued in monetary terms.
 - e. assurances that partisanship will play no part in an organization's decision-making.
3. Ralph Nader rose to national prominence on the issue of
 - a. school busing.
 - b. abortion.
 - c. auto safety.
 - d. nuclear power.
 - e. discrimination.
4. Membership organizations that rely on purposive incentives tend to be shaped by
 - a. economic trends.
 - b. social policy.
 - c. the mood of the times.
 - d. legal developments.
 - e. demographic shifts.
5. All of the following are examples of liberal public-interest law firms *except* the
 - a. American Civil Liberties Union.
 - b. Asian American Legal Defense Fund.
 - c. NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.
 - d. Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.
 - e. Women's Legal Defense Fund.
6. The Center for Defense Information, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Economic Policy Institute are examples of
 - a. liberal public-interest law firms.
 - b. nonideological public-interest think tanks.
 - c. conservative public-interest law firms.
 - d. liberal think tanks.
 - e. conservative think tanks.
7. The National Organization for Women and the National Abortion Rights Action League are examples of organizations that feature
 - a. solidary incentives.
 - b. purposive incentives.
 - c. material incentives.
 - d. non-partisan incentives
 - e. All of the above
8. The major union movement in America occurred in the
 - a. 1920s.
 - b. 1930s.
 - c. 1950s.
 - d. 1960s.
 - e. 1970s.
9. The shift in the nation's economic life toward _____ has contributed to the decline in unions.
 - a. industrial production
 - b. the development of infrastructure
 - c. international trade
 - d. service delivery
 - e. A and B

10. "Beltway bandits" are
- interest groups who actively oppose increases in federal grants.
 - large national for-profit firms with trade representatives or lobbyists in Washington.
 - coalitions of interest groups who lobby against applications for federal contracts.
 - Washington-based lobbyists who obtain grants for small, not-for-profit organizations.
 - federal employees who oversee the application process for grants and contracts.
11. Which statement is *incorrect*?
- Nobody really knows whether the groups that win federal grants and contracts are doing a good job or not.
 - The organizations that receive the lion's share of grants and contracts are frequently audited and evaluated.
 - The list of top discretionary grant recipients generally looks the same from year to year.
 - The organizations that administer social services funded by Washington are typically large.
 - Ronald Reagan attempted to cut back on federal funds going to nonprofit groups that supposedly lobbied for liberal causes.
12. About _____ percent of the interest groups represented in Washington, D.C., are public-interest groups.
- 4
 - 12
 - 15
 - 20
 - 40
13. Although farmers today have difficulty getting Congress to pass bills in their favor, they are still able to
- block bills that they don't like.
 - appeal to public sentiment.
 - win court cases.
 - manipulate prices by withholding their produce.
 - affect collective bargaining agreements and discourage strikes.
14. Probably the best measure of an interest group's ability to influence legislators and bureaucrats is
- the size of the membership.
 - the dollar amount of its contributions.
 - the occupational sketch of its members.
 - its organizational skill.
 - its contacts.
15. The single most important "tactic" of an interest group is the ability to
- provide credible information.
 - smooth over ideological differences.
 - mask partisan loyalties.
 - publicize the decision-making process.
 - persuade through the use of litigation.
16. Interest-group ratings can be helpful sources of information but can be problematic because of
- the costs of obtaining the results.
 - constant change in group membership.
 - a lack of participation by members of Congress.
 - bias in arbitrary measurement and assessment.
 - lack of public interest.
17. The "Dirty Dozen" refers to members of Congress who one interest group deemed to be
- corrupt.
 - anti-environment.
 - beleaguered.
 - free-thinking.
 - parlor "pinks."
18. The passage of the campaign finance reform law in 1973 led to the rapid growth in
- political parties.
 - interest groups.
 - PACs.
 - voter registration.
 - revenue sharing.

19. Senator Kennedy's observation that we may have "the finest Congress that money can buy" is probably off mark because
- individual contributions have never been a major source of congressional campaign funds.
 - campaign finance reform laws have decreased the influence of money in elections.
 - large corporations rarely contribute the full amount allowed by law.
 - incumbents are well funded and do not need money from interest groups.
 - PACs are so numerous and easy to form.
20. Over half of all PACs are sponsored by
- public-interest lobbies.
 - citizens groups.
 - ideological groups.
 - labor unions.
 - corporations.
21. Scholars have found a "slight statistical correlation" between PAC contributions and congressional votes when votes involve
- racial discrimination.
 - issues which do not interest constituents.
 - abortion and affirmative action.
 - issues where positions are not driven by ideology.
 - B and D.
22. The revolving door between government and business raises the possibility of
- poor communications.
 - revenue sharing.
 - conflicts of interest.
 - duplication.
 - ticket splitting.
23. Former executive-branch employees may *not* appear before an agency for ____ after leaving government service on matters that came before the former employees' official sphere of responsibility.
- six months
 - eight months
 - one year
 - two years
 - five years
24. Laws which restrict the activity of interest groups are always in potential conflict with
- the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - the Privileges and Immunities clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - the First Amendment.
 - the Tenth Amendment.

ESSAY QUESTIONS (Choose any 5)

Write answers to the following questions. These test your ability to integrate and express the ideas that you have been studying in this chapter.

1. Discuss the four reasons identified by the authors for why interest groups are so common in this country.
2. Explain how government policy contributed to the rise of interest groups since the 1960s.
3. Identify some of the defining characteristics of institutional and membership interests.
4. Identify and explain the three types of incentives which mass-membership organizations offer.
5. Describe the three types of feminist organizations.
6. Discuss the rise and fall of the union movement with attention given to causes of decline and recent trends in union membership.

7. Why are federal grants and contracts a topic of interest in relation to interest groups and how have recent administrations attempted to affect the relationship between them?

8. How do interest groups employ "ratings?" What are some examples of groups who employ such devices and why are they also problematic?

9. Summarize what political scientists know about trends in PAC activity and what we know about the influence of PACs on congressional voting.

10. Identify three restrictions on former executive branch employees who want to represent clients before government agencies.

11. What three regulations were placed on lobbyists and lobbying activity in March of 2007?